ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image processing method and apparatus for
forming a mosaic image by combining a plurality of
material images divides a first image that is the basis

5   of the mosaic image into a plurality of tile areas,
compares each tile area with each of the material
images, selects a material image that most resembles the
tile area in terms of color or luminance and pastes this
material image to the tile area, thereby creating a

10 mosaic image. Selecting the material image includes
dividing each tile area into a plurality of subareas,
dividing each material image into a plurality of
subareas, obtaining average values of R, G, B of each of
these areas, calculating differences between

15 corresponding ones of these average values while
performing weighting in accordance with subareas which
the user has designated as being of importance, and
selecting material images, which are to be pasted to
respective tile areas of the first image, in dependence

20 upon result of this calculation. Alternatively,
distances between an image characteristic of each of the
tile areas and image characteristics of the material
images are calculated while performing weighting, and
material images to be pasted to respective tile areas

25 are selected in dependence upon the result of this
calculation.

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